Bioc 800 Syllabus and Course Policy — Section 028 (CRN 12546), Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Silberg [email = joff@rice.edu; office = Keck 209]

Office Hours: Joff has an open door policy.

Course objectives and expected learning outcomes:

- To conduct mentored research in biochemistry and biomolecular design
- To synthesize novel findings in a comprehensive research-based dissertation by the end of the fifth year in the graduate program
- To gain scientific communication experience through reporting novel findings in peer-reviewed publications

Course structure: Graduate research is conducted full-time in the laboratory after completing the first two semesters of the BCB graduate program. Students should acquire advisor approval to attend classes or conferences and to arrange vacation time. Students are expected to spend at least 40 hours per week performing research or attending research-related meetings, classes, conferences, and other events.

Presentations: Students present research activities and progress in Silberg lab specific settings (~2-3 times/year in Bioc 611), to other BCB graduate students (once/year in Bioc 581 or Bioc 582), and to their progress review committee (once/year). Students usually have the opportunity to present a poster and/or talk at one scientific conference per year, pending availability of funds and relevant conferences in the student's area of research.

Scientific writing: In addition to annual progress review documents, students prepare drafts of manuscripts of their research results for publication and have opportunities to provide critical comments on drafts of other lab members' documents.

Readings: Readings are from the primary literature in areas related to the research field or the experimental design employed by the student. Reading should be self-driven; students should be generally knowledgeable about current findings in their area of specialization and are expected to regularly search for new articles and new findings without specific direction from the advisor.

Mentoring & teaching opportunities: Silberg lab graduate students have the (optional) opportunity to mentor undergraduates (usually Bioc 310 students) in projects related to their thesis work. Post A-exam students have the (optional) opportunity to teach a section of Bioc 115, a seminar in local biology research. Students may complete the *BioSciences Higher Education Teaching & Mentoring Training Program* (see department web page).

Attendance & participation: Attendance and active participation are required.

Exams: There are no exams.

Grading: Grading is Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory based on research effort, research progress, and communication with the advisor. Course can be repeated for credit.

Rice honor code. In this course, all students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. If you are unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered, you should consult the Honor System Handbook at http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/. This handbook outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process.

Disability support services. If you have a documented disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Support Services (Allen Center, Room 111 / adarice@rice.edu / x5841) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs.

Syllabus change policy. This syllabus is only a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.